

Once again, the FCC is being called upon to enforce the intent of the social contract for the fair use of the public airwaves. Is the Commission will to perform this task as the protector of the public, or will it cave to corporate pressure?

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The current majority membership of the FCC has seriously compromised public confidence that this public agency is acting in the public's best interest. Indeed, all decisions favored by the current FCC majority membership have served corporate interests and compromised the well being of the public.

In the interest of shoring up the image of the FCC and ensuring that the public's interests are upheld, I urge you to investigate the issue of Sinclair's partisan corporate behavior, stop it, and make clear the such behavior will not be tolerated in the future.

Thank you.